

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0025] as originally filed ([40] as published)with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In addition to using multimode input fibers, one or more singlemode fibers can be incorporated into the bundle. For example, if it is desired to couple multimode pump light into the inner cladding of a multiclad fiber while simultaneously coupling singlemode light out of or into the singlemode core of the same multiclad fiber, the central fiber [[29b]] 31b can be a singlemode fiber. Such simultaneous singlemode and multimode coupling to a multiclad or cladding-pumped fiber facilitates the transfer of signal and pump power to a cladding-pumped fiber for the construction of devices such as cladding-pumped fiber amplifiers. Similarly, a central fiber that couples multimode light, or only a limited number of modes into, or out of, a multiclad or cladding-pumped fiber can be used.--